

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO THE DECEMBER 12, 2006 OFFICE ACTION

APPLICANT:	Oliver Schreck	CONFIRMATION NO.: 3794
SERIAL NO.:	10/072,039	GROUP ART UNIT: 3737
FILED:	February 5, 2002	EXAMINER: Baisakh Roy
TITLE:	"METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR FUNCTIONAL MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING"	

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

S I R:

Applicant and his counsel have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated December 12, 2006 and the references cited therein, but believe the claims in their present form are patentable over the teachings of those references. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following arguments in support of patentability is therefore respectfully requested.

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 12, 2006, claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jesmanowicz et al. in view of Rittman, III et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons. In substantiating this rejection, the Examiner stated that Jesmanowicz et al. disclose a method and apparatus for functional MRI wherein image points of highest intensity correspond to points of highest correlation or coincidence, allowing differentiation between activated and non-activated brain regions. The Examiner has stated this corresponds to the "image-related correlation values" in the claims of the present